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SOURCE Tsingtao Jih-pao.DESCRIBES UNEMPLOYMENT IN TSINGTAO

The following speech was made on 22 May 1950 in Tsingtao by Chang Yunshan, Deputy Minister of Labor, at a meeting welcoming a team of the Northeast Labor Recruiting Committee:

Since liberation, the number of unemployed workers in Tsingtao has been increasing steadily. From January to March 1950, the Tsingtao People's government carried out registration of the unemployed, and in January, 5,703 persons registered, including 1,824 men and 3,879 women. According to incomplete data, 4,672 more unemployed workers were reported from the beginning of March to the end of April 1950, making a total of 9,013. The exact number of the unemployed, cannot be verified because, it is thought that 65 percent of the unemployed women and 35 percent of the unemployed men did not take the trouble to register in the January registration.

During the past 2 months, only 509 unemployed were placed in jobs. Today, the Northeast Labor Recruiting Team gave employment to 138 technicians and is continuing to recruit several hundreds more from the city. The Shantung Construction Company and the Shantung Railway Bureau also employed a number of workers. Never the less, a big unemployment problem still confronts Tsingtao.

Here are the principal causes for the present unemployment:

1. Enemy air raids and blockade -- KMT airplanes, based on Taiwan and other islands, are assisted by the US imperialists in attacking our cities. They are also blockading our ports. It is necessary, therefore, to liberate Taiwan, other islands, and Tibet. To attain this goal will naturally require a huge military expenditure.

2. Repeated natural calamities in 1949 -- Some one million calamity-stricken people in China need money and provisions.

3. Economic reconstruction -- The economic system in our country was heretofore dependent and semicolonial in nature. It is being reorganized into an independent, people's economic system. The process will require a long time and much hard work. During the reconstruction period, severe economic dislocation and chaotic conditions are to be expected.

- 1 -

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4. Inflation -- The continually rising prices of the past 12 years have created a false economy. The present stabilization of commodity prices has caused overstocking of markets with unsalable goods and forced a drop in production.

5. Capitalists -- Capitalists are skeptical about the workability of the present governmental policy. They are therefore withholding capital, and taking a "wait-and-see" attitude.

The liberation of Taiwan and other islands is not far from being realized and will force the enemy to stop air raids and the blockade. The large amount of money now being used for military purposes can then be used for the economic construction of the country. The economic construction work in the Northeast has been completed. The number of workers in the Northeast industries has increased by 170,000 since 1949. The Northeast has no unemployment problems. It needs more workers.

The following steps are now being taken to aid the unemployed:

1. The implementation of the "production-for-self-help" program by the participation of the unemployed workers in making bricks, nets, ropes, etc.

2. The implementation of the "work-in-exchange-for-provisions" movement. Workers dredge canals, repair wharves and jetties, dry grain, etc., to receive wages in kind.

3. Assistances from various agencies. Government agencies of all levels and general labor unions make inquiries of various enterprises to find employment for the unemployed. The Northeast Labor Recruiting Team is now recruiting more than 1,000 Tsingtao unemployed; the Shantung Construction Company has given work to 250; and the Shantung Railway Bureau's Ssu-pu Machinery Factory hired 30 unemployed.

4. The implementation of the "return-home-to-pursue-production" movement. Unemployed who have homes in rural areas are being urged to return home to pursue agricultural production until better conditions prevail in Tsingtao.

5. Emergency relief work. The Tsingtao government has given emergency provisions to the unemployed. Monetary donations are also being solicited to help them temporarily. The Tsingtao General Labor Union has set up an unemployment relief committee to help the unemployed.

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- 2 -

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